

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 PRS-01 /019 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:PAF:WSDIEDRICH:JR

APPROVED BY ARA:HRYAN

ARA:CAR:JRBURKE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, DR

SUBJECT: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: ARRESTED PUERTO RICANS

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS:

Q. WHO ARE THE THREE U.S. CITIZENS FROM PUERTO RICO WHO ARE BEING HELD BY THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WHY ARE THEY BEING HELD, AND WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING ABOUT IT?

A. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT 3 U.S. CITIZENS FROM PUERTO RICO WERE DETAINED ON JUNE 2 BY DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE: JOHN THOMAS SAMPSON FERNANDEZ, ANGEL LUIS GANDIA BONHOME, RAUL ENRIQUE GARCIA ZAPATA.

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ASCERTAIN THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM AND TO GAIN CONSULAR ACCESS TO THEM. WE FIRST REQUESTED CONSULAR ACCESS TO THESE AMERICANS THROUGH BOTH THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN SANTO DOMINGO. WHEN ATTEMPTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DID NOT SUCCEED WE CALLED IN THE DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR AND EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN WITH THIS SITUATION.

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THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASSURED US THE MEN ARE IN GOOD

HEALTH AND WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AS SOON AS INVESTIGATIONS ARE COMPLETED. WE HAVE REITERATED OUR REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ACCESS.

Q: DOESN'T THE ARREST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE
LANDING OF DOMINICANS BENT ON A REVOLT AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT?

A: WE DON'T KNOW THE CHARGES AGAINST THE THREE YET.

Q: WHEN DID THE U.S. FIND OUT ABOUT THE ARREST?

A: THEY WERE ARRESTED ON JUNE 2, THE U.S. EMBASSY
LEARNED OF IT ON JUNE 6. KISSINGER

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